The People's Korea

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President Kim Il Sung Meets Special Envoy of Mr. Gorbachev

President Kim Il Sung on June 8 talked with Mr. Alexandr Kapto, a special envoy of General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. Secretary Kim Jong Il was also present at the talks. (KCNA Radiophoto)

President Kim Il Sung highly estimated the efforts of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for peace and the work of the Soviet Union at the recent Soviet-U.S. summit in Moscow.

Receiving on June 8 a special envoy of Mr. Gorbachev, Alexandr Kapto, he expressed support for the recent major initiatives and concrete steps of Moscow to prevent the danger of a nuclear war and guarantee peace and security.

Present on the occasion were Secretary Kim Jong Il, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam and Hyon Jun Guk, member and director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Special envoy Kapto, who is also a member and first deputy director of a department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, informed the DPRK President of the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit and the views of the Soviet leadership on the prospect of disarmament, the coordination of regional disputes and the development of the situation in the world and the Asia-Pacific region. He also conveyed the support and solidarity of the party and government of the Soviet Union for the consistent stand of the WPK and the DPRK government for the peaceful solution of the Korean question.

At a press conference held at the Soviet Embassy later on the day, the special envoy said that Moscow regards the Soviet-U.S. summit talks as an important event in the Soviet-U.S. relations and international relations.

He gave detailed accounts of the problems of limitation and reduction of arms, human rights and humanitarianism, settlement of regional conflicts and bilateral relations which were discussed at the summit talks.

Recalling that the situation created on the Korean Peninsula was discussed at the summit talks, he said in this regard Moscow informed the U.S. side of the proposal put forward by President Kim Il Sung to hold a north-south joint conference.

"But the U.S. side took a negative stand at the talks," he said.

"The Soviet Union demanded the withdrawal of the U.S. troops, saying it is important to withdraw the U.S. troops from south Korea if political and military tensions created on the Korean Peninsula are to be eased," he continued.

New Economic Officials Appointed

President Kim Il Sung proclaimed a decree of the Central People's Committee of the DPRK on appointing some members of the Administration Council or relieving them of their posts.

The decree dated June 2 says:

1. Hong Song Nam, vice premier of the Administration Council, is appointed chairman of the State Planning Commission.
2. Kim Bok Sin, vice premier of the Administration Council, is relieved of her post of chairman of the External Economic Commission and appointed chairman of the Light Industry Commission.
3. Cho Se Ung, vice premier of the Administration Council, is relieved of his post of chairman of the Construction and Building Material Industry Commission.
4. Kim Hwan, vice premier of the Administration Council, is relieved of his post of chairman of the Chemical and Light Industry Commission and appointed minister of chemical industry.
5. Kim Dal Hyon is relieved of his post of chairman of the State Planning Commission and appointed chairman of the External Economic Commission.
6. Chu Yong Hun is appointed chairman of the Building Material Industry Commission.
7. Cho Chol Jun is appointed minister of construction.

Some commissions of the Administration Council were divided to bring new commissions and ministries into being according to another decree dated June 2.

The Construction and Building Material Industry Commission was split into the Building Material Industry Commission and the Ministry of Construction, and the Chemical and Light Industry Commission was divided into the Light Industry Commission and the Ministry of Chemical Industry.

Pyongyang Vows To Strive for Olympic Cohosting

The National Olympic Committee of the DPRK said in a June 9 statement that Pyongyang will continually make efforts to realize the co-hosting of the Olympic Games till the day of the opening of the Games, "in conformity with the desire of the entire people in the north and the south and the peace-loving people of the world."

The statement also reiterated that Pyongyang will never participate in the Games if they are hosted by Seoul single-handedly.

Earlier on June 4, Kim Yu Sun, head of the DPRK's NOC, urged the IOC to make Seoul accept Pyongyang's co-hosting offer.

In a letter to an IOC administrator, Raymond Gafner, Mr. Kim said, "The bottleneck in the issue of co-hosting is the problem to be settled between us and the south Korean side, not the problem between the IOC and us."

US Sends Spy Plane Into DPRK

The United States committed an aerial espionage against the DPRK on June 6, sending an SR-71 high-speed, high-altitude reconnaissance plane deep into the air above the eastern territorial waters of the DPRK east of Kosong.

According to a KCNA report, the plane flew up to the air above the coastal waters off Sonbong County, North Hamgyong Province, from 12:28 to 12:37.

Such aerial espionage of the U.S. numbered nine since April, the report said.

Roh Regime Mobilizes 60,000 Police to Crush Student March

See related story and photos on page 4

The Roh Tae Woo government harshly crushed a student attempt to march to Panmunjom for talks with north Korean students on June 10, mobilizing 60,000 police throughout the country to block highways leading to the north and to search rail and bus terminals for students heading for the meeting.

Police took into custody hundreds of students in a series of street battles.

It was the harshest crackdown since Roh Tae Woo came to power in February.

A north Korean student delegation went to Panmunjom greeted by north Korean citizens and waited for its south Korean counterpart to arrive at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

Ko Ung Sam, head of the north Korean student delegation, made public a statement, failing to meet the south Korean student delegates.

He said that north Korean students

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Riot policemen kick students who were trying to march to Panmunjom for talks with north Korean students on June 10. They were unable to go to the meeting place. (Reuter)

40 Years' Course Traversed by DPRK (1)

The DPRK greets its 40th birthday on Sep. 9.

During the period, it has traversed the course of victory and glory, and creation and prosperity, under the guidance of President Kim Il Sung and Secretary Kim Jong Il.

The DPRK, which was founded through the long-drawn-out struggle for independence and sovereignty, has promoted revolution and construction and established a socialist system.

At present, it is vigorously advancing toward the complete victory of socialism.

Introduced here is 40 years' course traversed by the DPRK in serial form:

President Kim Il Sung at the office of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea established on Feb. 8, 1946.

"Great Triumph"

The Second World War ended with the unconditional surrender of Japanese imperialism on Aug. 15, 1945.

Korea was liberated. The Korean people cut off the chains of colonial slavery of Japanese imperialism over 36 years and greeted a new era with freedom.

It was a brilliant victory of the Korean people who had struggled under the leadership of President Kim Il Sung.

In emotional excitement over their newly-won freedom, the Korean people looked up at President Kim Il Sung who had struggled against Japanese imperialism over 15 long years and liberated their fatherland.

They rejoiced and shouted "Long live General Kim Il Sung!" at the top of their voices.

They were encouraged by the General who had crushed the aggressors and struggled against them in defiance of oppression and exploitation of Japanese imperialism.

"Road for Liberated Korea"

After President Kim Il Sung returned home triumphantly, he organized and guided the nationwide struggle to build a paradise for the people and to reunify the fatherland which was divided into two parts because south Korea was occupied by the U.S.

He clearly showed the liberated Korean people the road to follow.

He first proposed the building of the party, the state and the armed forces as immediate major tasks.

Giving a scientific analysis of the prevailing situation, he set forth the policy of founding a party with the communists as its core, who had been trained by himself and tried and tested by the long and arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggles by embracing the communists who had been active in different places.

He actively pushed ahead with preparations for party building and on Oct. 10, 1945, he held the inaugural party congress in Pyongyang, where the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea was formed and the party was declared founded to the world.

In August 1946 the newly founded Communist Party merged with another party of working people to found the Workers' Party of North Korea. In June 1949 the Workers' Parties of North and South Korea merged to develop into the Workers' Party of Korea.

He completely destroyed the old colonial ruling machine of Japanese imperialism and organized people's committees all over the country, and on this basis, established the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea (PPCNK), a new type of government, on Feb. 8, 1946.

President Kim Il Sung was elected Chairman of the PPCNK.

The PPCNK was a government that inherited the revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

It was a people's government based on worker-peasant alliance led by the working class and relying on the democratic national united front formed by the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic forces. It was a government that performed the function of people's democratic dictatorship.

The main task of this government was to fulfil the tasks of an anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution and establish a revolutionary democratic base in north Korea.

The anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic reforms were enforced in all fields of social life in the north including the agrarian reform, the nationalization of major industries, the labor protection and equality of sexes.

"Founding of DPRK"

In February 1947, on the basis of the great victory of the first historic democratic election held in north Korea, the People's Committee of North Korea was established. This was the first institution of the dictatorship of the proletariat in Korea.

The Korean people unanimously elected General Kim Il Sung chairman of the PCNK.

Meanwhile, their endeavours to build a unified democratic independent country was confronted with a grave difficulty owing to the manouvers of the U.S. aggressors occupying south Korea and their agents.

In the grave situation, President Kim Il Sung developed the Korean People's Revolutionary Army into the Korean People's Army on Feb. 8, 1948 and called a conference of leaders of political parties and social organizations of north and south Korea in June 1948 and set forth the policy of founding a Democratic People's Republic of Korea without delay.

This was a decisive save-the-nation step to surmount the danger of national division and achieve the country's reunification and independence.

On Aug. 25, 1948, in line with the above policy, the election of deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly was held in all parts of north and south Korea amid the high enthusiasm and excitement of the whole nation.

With the brilliant results of the north-south general election, the First Session of the Supreme People's Assembly was held in Pyongyang in September 1948.

At the session, President Kim Il Sung was elected Premier of the Cabinet, Head of State, of the DPRK. On Sep. 9, 1948, he declared the founding of the DPRK to the whole world.

(To be continued)

Secy. Ho Dam Issues Press Statement Supporting New Policy of N-S Negotiation

President Kim Il Sung, in his speech at the May 27 banquet he arranged in honor of Milos Jakes, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, put forward a new policy of north-south negotiation and clarified a principled stand for the co-hosting of the Olympic Games.

In this connection, Ho Dam, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, issued a statement to the press on May 30.

He said:

Even before the north-south joint conference is convened, bilateral or multilateral contacts and talks should be held between the representatives of parties, groupings and people of all walks of life in north and south. Considering this policy as a most just and timely initiative for opening a short cut to national reconciliation and national reunification, I warmly hail and fully support it in the name of the entire Korean people who desire peace of the country and its peaceful reunification.

If the contact and talks between political parties and organisations are realised as proposed by the President, this would, no doubt, make a breakthrough in the frozen barrier between north and south, create an atmosphere of national reconciliation and unity and open up a way for solving outstanding problems in the north-south relations for national reunification and common interests of the nation.

The principled stand on the co-hosting of the Olympic Games is entirely justifiable because it embodies a strict spirit of national independence and the idea of national salvation for reunification.

The south Korean authorities must renounce their self-opinionated way of thinking to play the solo in the dialogues, refrain from obstructing the realization of the bilateral and multilateral contacts and talks between representatives of political parties, groupings and people of all social standings in the north and the south, give up the scheme of single-handed hosting of the Olympic Games even now and take the road of its co-hosting.

I take this opportunity to express the hope that the parties, governments and peoples of different countries worldwide who want peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification would extend full support to our new policy of negotiation and our principled stand toward the Olympic co-hosting.

Kim Yu Sun, chairman of the Olympic Committee of the DPRK, also issued a press statement on June 2 in support of the new policy put forward by President Kim Il Sung.

Statement of Prep. Com. of North Side to N-S Student Talks

The preparatory committee of the north side to north-south student talks in a statement published on Jun. 8 denounced the south Korean rulers for the proposal of "talks between authorities" they brought forward with the despicable aim of preventing south Korean students from meeting with students in the north and of foiling north-south student talks which were to be held at Panmunjom on June 10.

Noting that the south Korean rulers are kicking up unusual fascist crackdown campaign in a bid to block student talks at Panmunjom, crying that they would discuss at "talks between authorities" the issue of mutual visit between students in the north and the south, an issue which is already included in the agenda of north-south student talks, the statement says:

Such racket of the south Korean fascist clique is an intolerable double act of division like building one more demarcation line in south Korea, not content with the reinforced con-

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Sunchon Vinalon Complex to Be Completed by Sept. 9

Construction work on the Sunchon Vinalon Complex is now progressing apace as a gigantic chemical industrial base.

The construction of the complex which will become a lifeline to play a major role in resolving the questions of food, clothing and housing, is the largest construction work in the DPRK.

This large-scale construction work will exceed the West Sea Barrage project in scale.

Builders are putting spurs to the construction work to complete the Sunchon Vinalon Complex by Sep. 9 when the DPRK will greet its 40th birthday.

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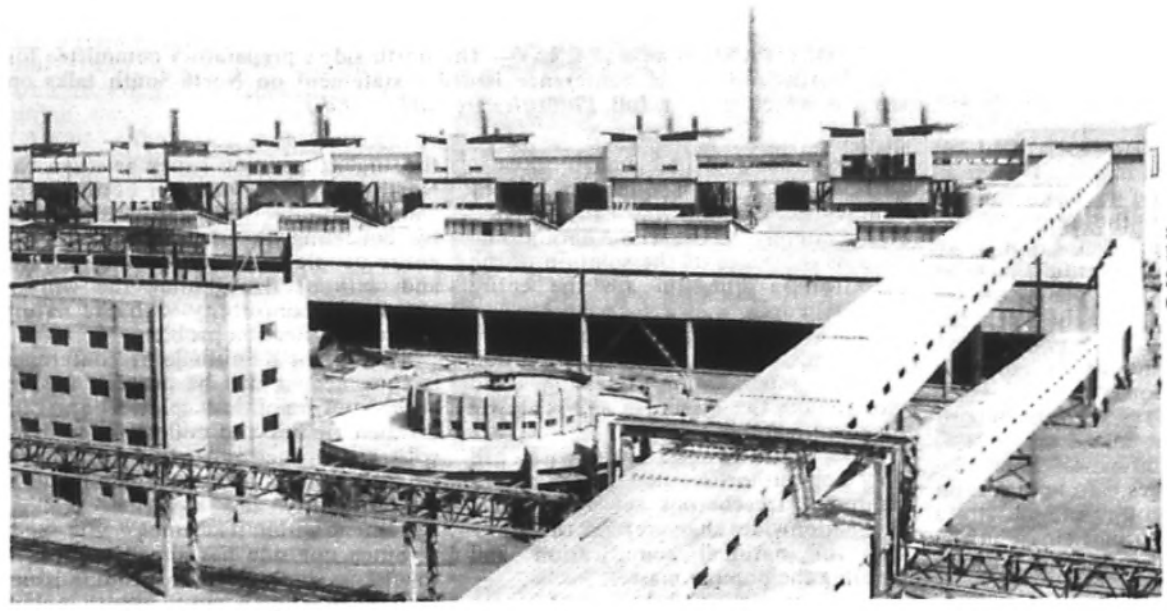
In the first half of the 200-day campaign the builders of the Sunchon Vinalon Complex increased construction assembling 1.6 times in terms of value as against that in the pre-campaign 100 days. During the time they tamped concrete of more than 60,000 cubic metres, assembled steel structures of over 9,000 tons and equipment of over 6,000 tons and laid pipes of 150 kilometres.

As a result, a vast construction work of more than 200 objects entered into a final stage, equipment assembling went ahead on a full-fledged scale in all districts and systems and some processes went through partial trial operations.

Preparations for partial trial operations of the first line of the aldehyde production system and the 13th line of the second system of spinning mill No. 1 are being pushed ahead in the vinalon district.

Equipment assembling was stepped up in the carbide system and two carbide kilns and one limekiln started production.

The builders of the raw material, fuel and methanol districts and the thermal power station put a new generator into operation and built a 75-ton boiler and many rectifying and compounding towers.



Part of the construction site of carbide kiln of the Sunchon Vinalon Complex

Housing Construction Progresses Fast

The construction of the complex is going alongside housing construction for the workers there.

Flats for 1,500 families have been completed and 1,000 of them are already occupied.

The modern apartment houses of various styles which have sprung up on hillock, high and low, along the River Taedong are offsprings of the deep loving care of Secretary Kim Jong Il who provides the people with more bountiful and happier life. Stores and public catering facilities are rising in the housing estates.

The builders have more than doubled the construction speed by applying new methods with high pride in building a new vinalon city.

Limekiln of the Sunchon Vinalon Complex

Press Statement of North Side's Prep. Com. for N-S Joint Conf.

The secretary of the preparatory committee of the north side to the north-south joint conference released a press statement on June 8 denouncing the stand of the south Korean authorities for monopolizing dialogue.

He said:

The south Korean authorities decided at the "cabinet meeting" on June 2 that the "suggestion to the north and contact with it must be made through a unified government channel", contending that for some others to propose talks directly to the north or try to have a contact with it, excluding the authorities, cannot be a "sound debate on reunification" or "be helpful to the improvement of relations between the north and the south".

The south Korean authorities proceeded from their dialogue-monopolizing stand in proposing "talks between authorities" recently.

The reunification of our country itself is not for the interests of one party or one group but it is a nationwide problem related to the vital interests of the whole nation and, accordingly, it must be discussed with an extensive participation of representatives who can speak for the will of the parties, groupings and people of all strata in both parts of the country, not a few specified persons alone.

In actuality, personages of all sections including political, social, academic and religious circles are stubbornly objecting to and rejecting the monopolization of the dialogue by the authorities, strongly demanding that they be allowed to participate in the dialogue. While widespread "people's discourse on reunification" is coming to the fore in south Korea.

The south Korean authorities' declaration that they would monopolise dialogue under the pretext of "unified channel" is a fascist arbitrariness that can be committed only by the military dictators accustomed to wanton violation of human rights and popular will at the point of the bayonet in south Korea, and a prelude to a wholesale repression to ruthlessly crack down on the people's movement for reunification as they did in crushing the uprising in Kwangju.

Lurking behind the fascist "decision of the cabinet meeting" adopted by the south Korean rulers against democracy and reunification is a sinister intention to keep the influence of our proposal for the convocation of a north-south joint conference and our recent policy of holding bilateral and multilateral contacts and talks between the representatives of political parties, groupings and social standings in the north and the south from reaching the south Korean people, abuse dialogue for their sinister political purpose, cover up their criminal boycott of north-south dialogue and mislead public opinion at home and abroad.

In their official announcement of "unified channel in dialogue", the south Korean rulers talked as if they would "open" the discourse on reunification, solve the problem of the 24th Olympics and realize human and material exchanges between the north and the south. But, this is a contradiction-ridden sophism devoid of sincerity.

What do they mean by opening the discourse on reunification within the framework of the current "constitutional order" and "operative law" which incriminate the reunification movement? And what do they mean by holding exchanges of politicians, economists, men of the press, men of culture and art, sportsmen, scholars and students while declaring that the authorities would monopolize the "proposals to and contacts with the north"?

If the south Korean authorities want to hold dialogue with us, they must respond to our proposal for a north-south joint conference before it is too late, and if they think it hard to do so right now, they must not obstruct bilateral and multilateral contacts and talks between the representatives of political parties, groupings and social standings in the north and the south even before the convocation of a north-south joint conference. They must not bar the north-south student talks and should respond to our new magnanimous proposal for holding "authorities' talks" in the form of a preliminary meeting for the preparations of a north-south joint conference.

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crete wall they had built along the Military Demarcation Line between the north and the south. This gives the lie to their statement that they would discuss the issue of mutual visits between students in the north and the south.

If they have any intention to hold dialogue, the south Korean authorities should not obstruct north-south student talks but provide all conditions for their successful opening.

The proposal of the preparatory committee of the north side to a north-south joint conference that the "proposal for north-south talks of high-level authorities" brought forward by the south Korean authorities, though unreasonable should be held in the form of a preliminary meeting for preparations of the north-south joint conference, is a very lenient and fair initiative.

The south Korean authorities should admit to their wrongdoings before it is too late, convey our letter related to north-south student talks to our fellow students in the south, guarantee a free discourse on reunification and desist from trying to monopolize north-south dialogue.

The south Korean authorities must clearly realize that if they persistently try to obstruct north-south student talks at the point of the bayonet the entire students in the north and the south would not remain still and, accordingly, act with discretion.

"36 Percent Regime" Shouldn't Monopolize Reunion Talks

—Statement of North Side's Prep. Com. for N-S Joint Conference—

PYONGYANG June 6 (KCNA) — The north side's preparatory committee for the North-South joint conference issued a statement on North-South talks on June 6, which reads in full. *(Subtitles are ours . . . Ed.)*

Today the entire Korean people and the broad world public warmly support and hail the new policy of North-South negotiation and the principled stand on the 24th Olympic Games clarified by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung at the banquet arranged in honor of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party some time ago, regarding them as best reasonable ways for opening a most realistic road of dialogue between the North and the South at present and correctly solving the urgent common problems of the nation.

In south Korea, too, with the date of North-South student talks drawing near, the debate on reunification is gaining scope among parties, groupings and personages and people of all strata and the movement to participate in the dialogue for reunification is growing as never before.

Such trend of the situation was caused a new consciousness of crisis and deep uneasiness to the south Korean authorities who do not want a dialogue for reunification.

Hence, the south Korean authorities all of a sudden announced a "decision" to allow "a single government channel" of dialogue and made a "proposal for dialogue" between North and South through a so-called "letter in the name of the prime minister."

Seoul's "Proposal" Aired by Radio: Lack of Sincerity

The proposal for "North-South talks of high authorities" unilaterally made public by the south Korean authorities on June 3 lacks sincerity and anything new.

The fact itself that they abruptly made public through radio the "letter" which they said they would hand over to our side through liaison officials gives rise to a doubt as to the sincerity of the "proposal."

As already reported, through telephone message June 2, our side notified the south Korean side that we would receive its letter and, at the same time, urged the south Korean authorities to send reply letters to our letter containing a proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference and fulfil their obligation to convey letters of our students concerning North-South student talks.

This stand of our side was a legitimate step taken in view of the rude and eccentric act of the present south Korean authorities who had ignored and discarded the good practice of giving and taking letters between north and south.

The south Korean authorities should have repented for their mistakes so far and, accepting our just request, should have, though belatedly, sent reply letters which they had failed to forward, and conveyed the letters which they had not conveyed, and sent their "letter" this time to our side through the regular channel.

But, the south Korean authorities, discarding the rule of conduct they must observe and avoiding the duty they must fulfil, aired the "letter" which they had said they would hand over to us, so that no body could believe their "proposal".

The so-called "proposal toward the North" by the south Korean authorities cannot be said to be a proper proposal intended to settle problems, above all in view of the form of dialogue.

The south Korean authorities' call for talks between high authorities in the North and the South is one which lamentably lacks validity and is unrealistic in view of the character of the reunification question or in view of aspiration of the south Korean people and lessons of past dialogues.

The reunification question of our country is a nationwide cause related to the interests of the whole nation. The persons in charge of the solution of the reunification question are the entire Korean people.

Nobody can exclude the masses of the people, the master of the solution of the reunification question, and monopolize the discourse and dialogue for reunification.

The south Korean authorities' call only for authorities dialogue is a self-righteous, treacherous act disregarding the nationwide character of the question of national reunification and ignoring the popular masses.

Moreover, it is utterly against reason that the "36 percent regime" which is not supported by the people tries to monopolize and run the show alone in such important matter as the reunification question related to the destiny of the whole nation.

If the south Korean authorities truly intend to solve the Olympic problem, realize mutual visits of personages and resume the suspended dialogue between north and south, they should neither bar the parties, groupings and personages of various circles from attending dialogue nor try to have dialogue in the absence of representatives of the popular masses.

N-S Joint Confab: Sole Effective Way for Reunion

In south Korea today personages of different circles want to meet with us, the students suggest holding North-South student talks and the religionists and women urge contacts with their counterparts in the northern half of the country.

The voices ringing out from south Korea should not go unnoticed, and they should also be given opportunities of dialogue.

The insistence on the authorities' talks alone without the participation of the masses of the people, out of fear of them, cannot be regarded as a sincere position to settle the issue of national reunification in conformity with the desire and interests of the nation through dialogue.

The south Korean authorities' insistence on the authorities' talks alone emanates from their wrong attitude to repeat the fruitless dialogue of the past.

The North and the South have an unfortunate past. In the 1970s and the 1980s, they spent much time and energy holding authorities-led dialogue, yet they failed to solve even the problem of discontinuing mutual slanders, which is urgent for national reconciliation and unity, let alone the peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

Today when the nation's desire for reunification is the highest ever, how can they dare to repeat the fruitless dialogue of the past, while pretending to want dialogue?

This cannot be construed otherwise than an intention to take an empty talk and kill the time, while paying lip service to dialogue.

If the North and the South have a dialogue to solve the problems both in name and in reality, such broad arena of negotiation as a joint conference attended not only by the authorities but also by all parties, all groupings and people of all walks of life should be chosen.

The North-South joint conference already proposed by us is a reasonable and realistic place of dialogue at which the urgent pending issues between the North and the South can be discussed and solved effectively and in a fair way by collecting the general will of the entire people without excluding anyone and without disregarding the will of anyone in conformity with the nature of the reunification problem.

If the North-South joint conference is convened, it will be possible for the authorities, political parties and individual figures and collectives to meet with each other and open their hearts to each other and share opinions without formality and seek an excellent agreement within its frame.

Since our side has already proposed to discuss and solve the pending issues between the north and the south including the co-hosting of the Olympic Games at the North-South joint conference, if the conference is convened, the problems which the south Korean authorities proposed to discuss will be solved.

The problem of resuming the suspended multi-channelled talks will be naturally solved if the North-South joint conference is open, the problem of mutual travel also be realized by itself without opening and discussing the talks between the authorities if the joint conference is held in Pyongyang and Seoul alternatively.

It will be unreasonable and unrealistic talks with impossibility in every respect to try to hold ineffective "authorities' talks" not by such effective way of negotiation as a North-South joint conference in which many problems will be solved and many thing gained at a time.

Seoul Must Refrain from Barring N-S Contacts on Non-Gov. Level

We cannot but express disappointment and deep regret at the fact that the south Korean authorities asserted that "dialogue should be held through a unified channel" and "talks held between the authorities" like predecessors even after they made "commitments" before people pretending to advance any proposal for reunification deporting the splittist stand of their predecessors when they seized power last year.

The proposal of the south Korean authorities for talks between the North and South high-level authorities emanated from wrong design to monopolize dialogue and a discourse on reunification.

Even if talks between the authorities of the North and the South are held, there would be no fundamental problem to be solved by meeting between personages at cabinet minister-level.

The matter is to arrange a wide-range negotiation like a North-South joint conference participated in by representatives of the whole nation.

From this point of view we are willing to consider the proposal of the south Korean authorities as part of preparations for a North-South joint conference though it is unreasonable.

If they want talks between the authorities of the North and the South at any cost, the talks should be held in the form of a preliminary meeting in preparation for a North-South joint conference and it may discuss the procedural matters as a whole arising in holding North-South joint conference and other business-like questions for ensuring the conference.

Such stand or ours is an expression of its sincere efforts to arrange negotiation between the north and the south by all means, bridge over the difficulties with joint efforts of the nation and an expression of magnanimity to deal leniently with the will of the opposite party.

We hope that the south Korean authorities accept our broad-minded proposal and a North-South joint conference be held in an early date.

If the south Korean authorities cannot respond to the convocation of a North-South joint conference immediately, they must refrain from barring the holding of bilateral or multilateral contacts and talks between representatives of political parties, groupings and people of all walks of life in the North and the South before the convocation of the conference.

There is no condition for the people in the North and the South not to sit face to face and no reason for them not to achieve reconciliation and unity.

We express the expectation that broad sections of people and persons of all levels in south Korea would wage a persistent struggle to sit at an early date at the conference table, at which they will become masters of the dialogue and the party directly concerned in the debate for the reunification.

Availing itself of this opportunity, the north side's preparatory committee for the North-South joint conference expresses the belief that governments, political parties and organizations and personages of various circles in all countries of the world and international organizations that want peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification will reject the splittist attitude of the south Korean authorities following the "two Koreas" policy of the United States and continue to express firm solidarity with our proposal for a North-South joint conference for reunification and with the Korean people's just struggle for its realization.

Soongshil Univ. Student Burns Self to Death

Park Rye Jong, chairman of the student council of Soongshil University in Seoul, poured thinner over his body and attempted to burn himself to death, shouting "Kwangju is alive!" on the rooftop of the fifth storeyed student hall of the school.

Park died on June 6 at the Hangang Songshim Hospital where he had been in a critical state after the political suicide attempt.

In his autographic will he demanded: Probe into the Kwangju incident; immediate resignation of Roh Tae Woo, guarantee of free debate on reunification question; opposition to a single-handed Olympics for consolidating division and immediate release of all the prisoners of conscience.

He is the third student who committed a ritual suicide for democracy and the reunification of Korea since May 15.

N-S Student Meet Foiled by 60,000 Riot Police; Students Pledge to Achieve It at Any Cost

The Roh regime foiled a student attempt to march to the truce village of Panmunjom for talks with students from north Korea on June 10, and took into custody at least 500 youths in a series of student battles.

More than 100 people, including students and policemen, were hurt during the day, according to police officials. One student, who was hit by an exploding tear gas grenade in Seoul and underwent surgery, was in serious condition.

Meanwhile, the representatives of the north Korean students who arrived at Panmunjom on June 10 for a preparatory committee for the North-South student talks harshly accused the Roh regime and the United States of preventing the south Korean students from coming to the truce village.

In his statement Ko Un Sam, chairman of the preparatory committee of the north side for the North-South student talks said, "We will not be discouraged with though we were unable to meet the south Korean student representatives today."

"We, north Korean student delegates will continuously fight for North-South student talks in Panmunjom in future too, and finally win the day when we will be able to meet our south Korean counterpart," he said.

Though the attempt to hold a Panmunjom meeting was marred by the Roh regime this time, Kim Jung Gi, representative of the south side for the N-S student talks, on the evening of June 10 said, "We will again promote the South-North student meeting after winning the support of the nation and students and I promise to achieve it at any cost."

S. Korean Students Prevented from Going to Panmunjom

Fierce battles took place in Seoul and in such large provincial cities as Pusan, Kwangju and Taejon on June 10.

About 26,000 youth held protests on and off 57 campuses across south Korea with some 60,000 riot police mobilized to foil the student march to Panmunjom.

About 10,000 students who staged an overnight sit-in at Yonsei University in Seoul held a rally and tried to march out of the campus shortly before noon.

They carried banners inscribed "Let's go to North" and "South and North are one."

The students attempted to gather at the main Seoul railway station to catch a train to Munsan, 40 km north of Seoul, from where they planned to march 16 km to the truce site of Panmunjom.

About 4,000 riot police blocked their way immediately outside the campus, and students began hurling rocks and firbombs in protest against police firing from motorized as well as hand-held launchers.

About 3,000 students who staged an overnight sit-in at Korea University in an eastern sector of the city tried to join their Yonsei friends.

When blocked by police, they staged protest street actions at Shinchon Square, near the Yonsei campus.

About 1,000 students had made their way to the railway station by 1 p.m. But they were broken up by police squads and went into sporadic demonstrations.

About 3,000 other students gathered at Hongjedong Square in the western section of the city, to catch buses to Panmunjom. Stopped by police, some of them lay down on the street braving police tear gas.

The demonstrators shouted "Drive out Americans who are the masterminds of Korea's division."

Police fired more tear gas and dispersed the demonstrators, many of whom went into back alleys and staged hit-and-run protests.

Prelude Fightings

Students were fighting recently to push their demand for holding the North-South student talks on June 10.

On June 9, more than 25,000 students staged rallies and demonstrations on and off 78 campuses across south Korea demanding that the government allow them to meet north Korean students at the truce village of Panmunjom.

Authorities deployed more than 55,000 police to keep student protests under control.

In Seoul students clashed violently with riot police at Yonsei University following a rally to push their cause. About half of the 10,000 students from more than 30 schools gathered on the campus began throwing firebombs and rocks at riot squads.

Reporters covering the clash said it was the heaviest tear-gas firing by police in a day since the fierce street demonstrations in June last year demanding democratic reforms. The battle continued for more than two hours.

As they fought police, the demonstrating students chanted slogans, "No war, no nuclear weapons," and "Yankees, go home."

There was a placard in front of a campus building which read "We oppose the dictatorial Olympics for national division."

At a rally which was held earlier that day, student leaders demanded that the government accept the legitimacy of the proposed student talks and retract an arrest order for students working for a North-South students meeting.

They asked for a government reply to their demand by 9 a.m. on June 10 and invited government officials and political party leaders to a public debate before they headed for Panmunjom. The Roh regime, however, answered with the mobilization of some 60,000 riot police to refuse the student demand.

Meanwhile, on June 7 a fierce fighting erupted around Soongshil University in Seoul when riot police fired tear gas to block students shouting anti-government and anti-American slogans and pouring out of the school.

Students from across Seoul had gathered at the school to mourn for a Soongshil student who died on June 6 after setting himself afire two days earlier in an anti-government protest.

"Down with the military dictatorship!" and "Yankee, go home!" masked students yelled as they hurled firebombs, rocks and bricks at riot police huddled behind shields.

The front of the Soongshil campus was draped with black mourning cloth and protest banners as students inside the school stood watch over the coffin of Park Rae Chun, who became the third student to commit ritual suicide since May 15 in an anti-government and anti-American protest.

Fighting erupted after a procession of students accompanying Park's body marched from a Seoul hospital to the campus.

60,000 Riot Police Completely Seal Off Campuses & Stations

The Roh regime began on June 8 to deploy some 60,000 riot police to prevent students from marching to Panmunjom for the June 10 North-South student talks, while police, firing tear gas, broke up student rallies.

Tens of thousands of riot police blocked roads to Panmunjom to prevent the planned march on June 10.

Riot police surrounded colleges from June 8 as security forces went on top alert.

Police director Cho Jong Suk earlier said in a press statement that the planned June 10 student talks between north and south Korea would "absolutely not be permitted" as violating "law and other order" and urged the students to abandon their plans to go to Panmunjom, 70 km (40 miles) north of Seoul.

About 40 students managed to reach Imjingak at the edge of the heavily-fortified demilitarized zone or the northern end of south Korea beyond which no ordinary people can go, but were immediately arrested by police.

The students who headed north by bus were certainly at one of the seven checkpoints along the 40-kilometer highway between Seoul and the Imjim River Bridge, which is the only road access to Panmunjom and heavily guarded by troops, and is off limits to all civilians.

4 Students Arrested Before Meeting U.S. Commander

Four representatives of the National Council of University Student Representatives, a pan-national united association of university students which is promoting a North-South student meeting, were arrested on June 4 when they tried to meet the U.S. commander of the 8th Army Command in south Korea.

They went to the command headquarters to ask for permission to go to Panmunjom, which is controlled by the U.S. Army, for June 10 student talks between north and south Korea.

More than 3,000 chant slogans demanding the reunification of the divided peninsula during mass demonstrations in downtown Seoul on June 10. (Reuter)

A student leader being hauled away by plainclothes police in Munsan near Panmunjom as he tried to break police lines and go to the truce site along the 38th Parallel. (Reuter)

South Korean policemen arrest a student leader outside the main gate of the UN Command headquarters on June 4. Four student leaders went there to get a permission to use Panmunjom for N-S student talks. (Reuter)

Chongryun Demands Fundamental Amendment To Alien Registration Law

Chongryun representatives including Kim Gi Chol, director of the Social Affairs Bureau of the Central Standing Committee of Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan), visited the Justice Ministry of Japan and handed a petition addressed to the justice minister.

The major points of the petition are as follows:

The Alien Registration Law aims at Korean nationals in Japan who form a large majority among resident foreigners. It aims at keeping a watch on Koreans and violates the human rights of Korean nationals.

This is clear from the process of formulation of the Alien Registration Law, its content and in particular, its actual application.

So far a total of about 520,000 out of 670,000 Koreans were arrested, investigated and punished, on charges of violating the law.

A supplementary resolution was adopted last September by the Judicial Committee of the House of Representatives when it voted for a partial amendment to the Alien Registration Law.

Cases of violation of the human rights of Koreans occurred one after another even after the supplementary resolution was adopted.

For example, a Korean youth was asked to present his alien registration certificate as well as his driver's license without any reasonable explanation, when he was checked by a traffic policeman (Hokkaido, December '87).

A woman who had been a little delayed in taking procedures renewal of her registration, was summarily fined 70,000 yen in Japanese currency (approximately $540), though she was the mother of fatherless children. (Osaka, November '87).

These facts were contrary to the spirit of the supplementary resolution which calls for a further study of the revision and application of the Alien Registration Law.

The present Alien Registration Law which was partially amended last year, still retains the fingerprinting system, the obligation to carry the alien registration card at all times and the system of imposing penalties on violators of the law.

In addition, the alien registration certificate is replaced by a laminated plastic card. This replacement allows the involvement of the immigration bureau in registration affairs, and to strengthen the control of Korean nationals by the state.

It also increases the burden of registration on Korean residents because they are required to visit offices concerned twice or more for registration.

Korean nationals in Japan as overseas citizens of a sovereign state are opposed to this discriminative treatment and wish for the guarantee of their fundamental human rights as well as friendship and cooperation with Japanese citizens.

A fundamental revision of the Alien Registration Law is the unanimous demand of the Korean nationals in Japan, irrespective of their religious creeds and political beliefs at a time when respect for the human rights is an international demand and a number of second- and third-generation Koreans is growing.

It is also the demand of Japanese citizens, which is reflected in the resolution adopted by about 1,100 local assemblies throughout Japan.

The Japanese authorities are requested to take into account the abovementioned facts and take the following measures in order to revise the Alien Registration Law and respect the adopted supplementary resolution:

1. To abolish the fingerprinting system, the obligation to carry the alien registration card at all times and the system of imposing penalties on violators of the law;

1. To stop indicting careless violators of registration procedures;

1. To take proper measure to enable the registrants to finish the registration procedures by visiting an office concerned once.

* * * * *

The revised law was passed last year despite the strong opposition of Korean nationals and broad sections of Japanese citizens, and was enforced on June 1.

The major points of the "revised" law enforced on June 1 are: Foreigners are fingerprinted only once when they become 16 years old; the alien registration certificate is replaced by a laminated plastic card.

The revised law requires foreigners to be fingerprinted only once. The problem is not how many times or how often they are fingerprinted. The fingerprinting system itself is nothing but a system of treating foreigners as potential criminals.

The revised law provides for an exception to allow local government authorities to compel foreigners to be fingerprinted.

According to the revised law, a new print may be required in case the identification of a foreigner is doubted, or for example, in case the original alien registration card bearing a print is lost or a print is unclear.

The alien registration certificates are replaced by laminated plastic cards on the ground of "greater convenience in carrying" and this necessarily involves the immigration bureau in the registration work in the following way.

In the past the work of preparing and issuing alien registration certificates was done by a city, ward, town and village office. The replacement of the certificate with a laminated plastic card is intended to transfer this work to the immigration bureau, an indication of the intention of further control on resident foreigners as well as registration business on the part of the Justice Ministry.

The replacement of the present alien registration certificate with a laminated plastic card increases the burden of registration on resident foreigners instead of "reducing their burden."

For example, in the case of renewal of the certificate (confirmation) a registrant first visits a city, ward, town or village office and makes an application; then a city, town, ward or village office prepares necessary documents according to the application and send these documents to the local immigration bureau; the local immigration bureau prepares and issues an alien registration card in laminated plastic card form and send it to a city, town, ward of village office; and finally the applicant visits the office again to get his card.

This means that a registrant is required to visit an office twice. In the past he or she was required to visit it only once.

In case there is a change in "residence," "occupation," "name and location," "nationality" out of the total 20 items, or in case a foreigner has lost his card or his card is damaged, he is required to go through the same procedure.

The Japanese authorities insist the replacement of the certificate with a laminated plastic card means "greater convenience in carrying". This "greater convenience in carrying" strengthens the obligation to carry the card in person at all times.

The revised law maintains the system of imposing unduly heavy penalties on violators of the law.

Those who violate the obligations to be fingerprinted and carry their cards in person at all times are sentenced to imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine of up to 20,000 yen (approximately $150).

Voices are growing among Japanese citizens demanding a fundamental amendment to the Alien Registration Law.

The Japanese authorities are required to listen to this public opinion and abolish the fingerprinting system, the obligation to carry the certificate card at all times and unduly heavy penalties imposed on violators of the law and stop the indictment of those who commit careless mistakes in taking registration procedure.

Korean Students Here Denounce Roh Regime for Preventing N-S Student Talks

The meeting of the Korean students in Japan was held on June 10 to support the June 10 north-south student talks, which was prevented by the south Korean authorities by force.

A meeting of Korean students in Japan was held in Tokyo on June 10 to express support for the north-south student talks which would have gone ahead in Panmunjom if the south Korean administration had not used force to prevent them.

The attendants denounced the south Korean regime for being opposed to the dialogue on reunification.

The students who attended the meeting came from Japanese universities and colleges and Choson University.

Li Su Nam, chairman of the Student Committee of Choson University and chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Joint Rally of Japan-born Korean Students, delivered a speech at the meeting.

The chairman, summarizing the process which had let to the proposed talks, explained the present situation and expressed his regret that the south Korean regime had intervened in the student initiative.

He rounded off his speech with an appeal to the attendants to rise in support of north-south student talks and the reunification of Korea and elucidated on the new tasks which Japan-born Korean students should undertake in line with students in the north and the south of Korea.

The meeting adopted a resolution demanding that the south Korean authorities stop their crackdown on students and allow them to hold talks with their counterparts in the north.

The resolution appealed to students throughout the world to offer understanding and support to the Korean students' campaign for north-south student talks.

Korean Primary Schools in Japan Hold Soccer Festival

Little soccer players fighting for the ball during a match of the tournament.

Some 820 Korean children gathered in Chiba Prefecture for the 10th Soccer Tournament of Korean Primary Schools in Japan which was held from June 1 to 3.

The event which began in 1979 has been held to develop the students' spirit and body and encourage an interest in the game.

On the first day of the meeting preliminary round games were held and three groups were established based on the results.

About 40 teams from all over Japan vied with each other for victory. The catchphrase among the players was "Defeat the Saitama Korean school team!" The team from Saitama Prefecture has carried off the flag for the last three years and there was a lot of speculation as to whether they could do it a fourth time.

As many people had predicted, the Saitama Korean school team made it to the finals of group 1. However, they were defeated 2-1 by the Amagasaki Korean school team.

There was a great deal of excitement during the game because the winners of the tournament have the opportunity of visiting the DPRK. This has been going on since 1984.

This is a highly valued prize as one of the greatest dreams of Korean children in Japan is to visit the DPRK.

After the soccer meeting a commendation ceremony was held and certificates and prizes were awarded.

Famous Figures of The Past in Korea

Illustrious Artists (2)

Kim Dae Song, Artistic Innovator

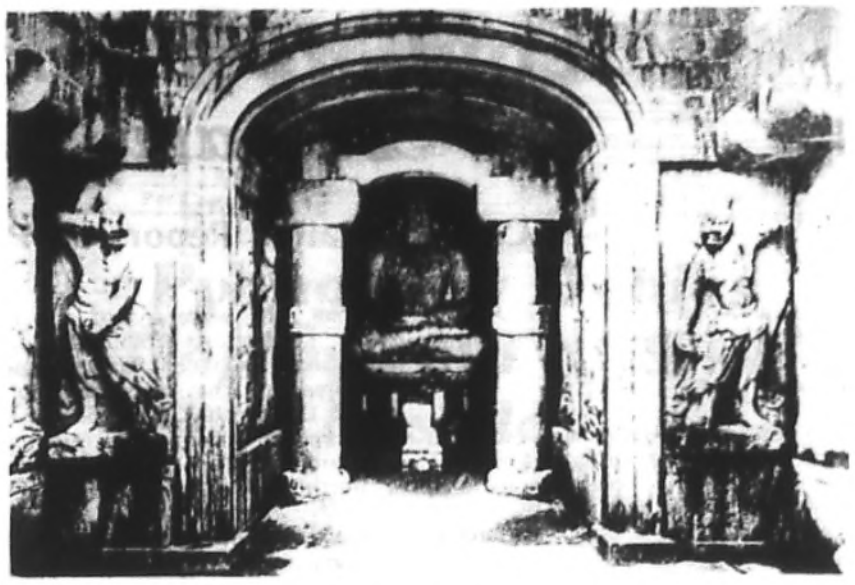

Photo shows an entrance to the circular, domed chamber in which the figure of the white granite Buddha sits cross-legged. Seen on both the right and left walls are Deva Kings.

Very few artifacts from the Silla period (from mid-second century to 935) have survived to the present day and most of those that have are of the more durable variety, mainly being made of stone and iron. As a result, we are unable to form a complete picture of what Silla art was like, but we can surmise from the existing relics, that a high degree of sophistication and artistic skill flourished during this time.

Most of what was survived is Buddhist religious art and includes stone pagodas, Buddhist images, bas-reliefs and temple bells. Perhaps the most significant of these artifacts is the Sokguram Grotto and the Pulguk-sa Temple.

The Sokguram Grotto, which was originally named the Sokgul-sa Temple, was erected in 751 at the foot of Mt. Toham, in Kyongju the capital of Silla in North Kyongsang Province.

The Pulguk-sa Temple was started in the same year but was destroyed during the Japanese invasions which took place at the end of the 16th century and was later rebuilt.

It is said that both the temple and the grotto were commissioned by King at that time according to a record. However, they were said to be designed by Kim Dae Song who also oversaw the construction. His father was a high-ranking official and he followed in his father's footsteps to become an official.

Unlike similar ones in China, the Sokguram Grotto has not been carved out of existing rock. It consists of a four-cornered antechamber, a gallery, a circular chamber with a dome-shaped ceiling and a gate with octagonal columns. The ceiling of the circular chamber is decorated with ornate carved masonry with large lotus patterns at the top.

The chamber itself is 6.78 metres in diametre and 13.92 metres in height and the entrance is 3.39 metres wide.

The figure of the Buddha in the centre of the chamber. His narrow eyes, gentle sharp nose, firmly set lips and plump face are in perfect harmony.

An analysis of the grotto reveals that many advanced geometric and dynamic principles were incorporated into the design and a high level of skilled workmanship went into the construction.

There are 40 sculptured images of the Buddha in the grotto, all carved in stone with the exception of the central image. On the walls, flanking the entrance, are the four Deva Kings, guardians of most Buddhist temples in Korea. The passage widens slightly and four other figures can be seen, two on either side, just before the doorway of the central chamber.

On the walls of the main chamber, surrounding the central figure, are carved stone panels depicting Bodhisattvas and Arhats which include the eleven-faced Avalokitesvara (the Goddess of Mercy). Looking at her graceful and charming face along with the slim lines of her lightly clad body, one can see a life-like woman and almost feel her pulsating.

The circular, domed chamber is dominated by the figure of the Buddha in the centre. Although it is carved from a massive block of white granite almost ten feet high it does not give the impression of being bulky or awkward.

The pedestal has been carved in the form of a lotus on which the Buddha sits cross-legged with his right hand pointing downward in a gesture symbolic of calling the earth to witness the truth of his teaching. His robe is so delicately carved that it seems about to flutter in the breeze. The whole figure is graceful and well proportioned.

It is known that Buddhist art in India, China, Japan and Korea is related historically. However, even although Kim Dae Song was a high-ranking official of Silla and had religious limitations placed on him he did not stick to existing formalities and endeavoured to give the granite Buddha a human quality.

It is unusual for a high-ranking official to be involved in projects such as these and Kim Dae Song will be remembered for the role he played in the design and construction of these two national treasures which have survived from the Silla period.

NEWS DISPATCH FROM PYONGYANG

Foreign Dels. To Pyongyang (Apr. 13-June 6)

APR. 13
* Girba Nicolae, new Romanian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the DPRK.

APR. 15
* Fritz Marsch, ex-chairman of the Foreign Policy Commission of the Parliament of the Republic of Austria, and his party.
* A delegation of the GDR paper Berliner Zeitung led by its Deputy Editor-in-Chief Dieter Dietzel.

APR. 17
* A delegation of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions headed by its Vice President Chen Bingquan.

APR. 19
* A Soviet military delegation headed by General Pyotr Lushev, first vice minister of defence of the Soviet Union.

APR. 21
* A delegation of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania led by Ngombale Mwiru, member of the Central Committee of the National Executive Committee of the RPT and secretary of the RPT National Executive Committee.
* A delegation of the International Bureau for the Tourism and the Exchange of Youth headed by its Vice President Gyula Tarcsi.

APR. 24
* Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Djavad Mansouri visiting the DPRK as a special envoy of His Excellency Ali Khamenei, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his party.

APR. 25
* A Soviet government delegation headed by Vsevolod Murakhovski, first vice chariman of the Council of the Ministers of the Soviet Union.
* Fausto Zapata Loredo, newly appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States of Mexico to the DPRK.
* Farllg Sobhan, newly appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the DPRK.

APR. 27
* A delegation of the July 19 Sandinist Youth of Nicaragua headed by its General Coordinator Pedro Hurtado Vega.

APR. 29
* A cultural delegation of the Tibet Autonomous Region of China headed by Dan Zeng, deputy secretary of the Tibet Autonomous Regional Committee of the Communist Party of China.
* A journalists delegation of the World Federation of Democratic Youth headed by Uli Brockmeyer, secretary of the World Federation of Democratic Youth and head of its press and information department.
* A youth delegation of Belgium.

MAY 2
* An Ethiopian government trade delegation headed by Getachew Desta, vice minister of foreign trade of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

MAY 4
* A delegation of Poona University, India.

MAY 6
* Edmond Leburton, former prime minister and now minister of state of the Kingdom of Belgium and his party.
* A Chinese state archives delegation led by Han Yuhu, director of the State Bureau of the Archives of China.
* The Bulgarian State Pirin National Song and Dance Troupe.

MAY 9
* Christen Amby, co-chairman of the Nordic Cooperation Committee for Friendship and Solidarity with the Korean People, and his companion.
* A delegation of the World Peace Council headed by its President Romesh Chandra.

MAY 11
* A delegation of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua.

MAY 13
* A delegation of the Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin headed by its Chairman Horst Schmidt.

MAY 14
* Hama Arba Diallo, newly-appointed Burkina Fasso ambassador extraordinary and prenipotentiary to the DPRK.
* A delegation of the Czechoslovak Union of Women led by Elena Litvajova, vice chairman of its central committee.

MAY 16
* A delegation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union headed by Alexandra Biryukova, secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

MAY 20
* A Mozambican party and government delegation headed by Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Mozambique Liberation Front Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

MAY 20
* A delegation of the Ujsario led by Sayed Baba Mustapha, secretary of the Ujsario in charge of international relations.
* A delegation of the Wiener-Neustadt Branch of the Society for the Promotion of the Relations between Austria and the DPRK.

MAY 23
* A delegation of the Havana International Bank of Cuba led by its Chairman Jose Julio Rodoriguez.

MAY 27
* A delegation of the Czechoslovak Film Committee headed by its Chairman Jiri Purs.
* Newly appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Hungarian People's Republic to the DPRK Kornidesz Mihaly.

MAY 30
* A delegation of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania led by R.M. Kawawa, secretary general of the party.

JUNE 1
* A Ugandan government trade delegation headed by J. Kanyehamba, minister of commerce of the Republic of Uganda.

JUNE 3
* The first friendship visiting group led by Zhang Xinshen, vice director of the General Administration for Travel and Tourism of China.

JUNE 6
* Eduardo Del Llano, editor-in-chief of Socialista, the politico-theoretical magazine of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.
* A delegation of the Cuban Committees for Defence of the Revolution headed by its Vice Chairman Vicente Pineda Vassallo.
* A delegation of the Sri Lanka-DPRK Friendship Buddhist Organization headed by its Vice Chairman Pohaddaramulle Pemaloka Thero.

(NCNA)

Seoul Must Take Correct Attitude Toward N-S Dialogue

—KCNA's Detailed Report on Proposal for N-S Contact & Dialogue—

Follow excerpts from the June 5 KCNA report on proposal for north-south contact and dialogue. (Subtitles are ours . . . Ed.)

As already reported, we, out of a desire to make this year a historic year of a new turning point for national reconciliation and unity, put forward realistic and reasonable proposals for negotiation and made every possible effort for their realisation from the beginning of the year.

On N-S Joint Conference

In order to carry into practice the new proposal for a north-south joint conference advanced by President Kim Il Sung in his New Year address for this year, the DPRK Central People's Committee, the Administration Council, political parties and public organisations held a joint meeting on Jan. 13 and adopted a letter to the authorities, political parties, public organisations and personages of all social standings of south Korea proposing to convene a historic north-south joint conference to be participated in by the authorities, political parties, public organisations and personages of all walks of life in the north and the south.

Proposing to discuss and settle urgent problems such as discontinuation of large-scale military exercises and the arms race, the co-hosting of the Olympics, realisation of multinational disarmament talks and discontinuation of slanders and vilifications to be immediately resolved between the north and the south at a north-south joint conference, if it is held, the letter proposed to hold a preliminary meeting at Panmunjom on Feb. 19.

The letter of the joint meeting containing our patriotic proposal was conveyed to the south Korean side through Red Cross liaison officials of both sides at Panmunjom at 15:00 Jan. 14.

But the south Korean authorities made public the "results of investigation" into the so-called "KAL incident" on the day following they received our letter, and countered our proposal for the convocation of a north-south joint conference with it, thus revealing that they have neither will to hold dialogue nor idea of promoting reconciliation and unity from the beginning but pursue only confrontation and the aggravation of tensions.

A clear proof of this stand of the south Korean authorities is that they had given no reply though nearly one month passed after they took over our letter.

In connection with this attitude of the south Korean authorities, the chairman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the DPRK upon authorization sent on Feb. 9 a telephone message demanding the south Korean Red Cross side to inform us of whether the letter of our side was conveyed or not.

In the Feb. 12 telephone message in reply to it, the president of the south side's Red Cross informed that the letter of our side was correctly conveyed to the addressees.

We patiently urged the south side to quickly respond to the proposal for the convocation of a north-south joint conference, warning the south side against its wrong behaviour of not replying to our letter even after receiving it and advising it to conform with the usage existing between the north and the south.

With the approach of the date of the convocation of a preliminary meeting, the secretary of the north side's preparatory committee for a north-south joint conference issued a statement to the press on Feb. 11, urging the south Korean side to show an immediate affirmative response to our proposal for the convocation of a north-south joint conference with sincerity.

However, the south Korean authorities gave no reply that time, either.

As a result, the preliminary meeting for the convocation of a north-south joint conference scheduled for Feb. 19 did not open.

The preparatory committee of the north side to a north-south joint conference on Feb. 20 made public a statement denouncing, in the name of the nation, the south Korean authorities for their insincere behavior of turning away their faces from our new national salvation proposal and laying an obstacle to the convocation of a north-south joint conference, while further exacerbating the tension.

Owing to the stand of the south Korean authorities opposing peace, dialogue and reunification, the preliminary meeting for a north-south joint conference did not open as scheduled. But, we did not cease to make efforts for the realisation of the proposal for a joint conference.

Our second letter containing the proposal for the convocation of a north-south joint conference was conveyed to the south Korean side through Panmunjom at 10 a.m. Mar. 8.

In the letter our side pointed out that we patiently waited for an affirmative reply from the authorities, political parties, public organisations and figures of all strata in south Korea, but did not receive any reply letter from them though 50-odd days passed and it courteously proposed again to hold a preliminary meeting for a north-south joint conference on Mar. 28 at Panmunjom.

But, the south Korean authorities countered with fascist suppression the response of several figures including the chairman of the former Social Democratic Party to the proposal for the convocation of a north-south joint conference and avoided sending an official reply to our proposal. Accordingly, the preliminary meeting did not open on Mar. 28 also.

In a press statement Mar. 29, the secretary of the preparatory committee of the north side to a north-south joint conference expressed regret at the failure of a preliminary meeting twice to be held on a proposed day due to the insincere attitude of the south Korean authorities and entrusted the south Korean side with the matter of designating the date of a preliminary meeting for a north-south joint conference for its convenience.

It is two months since then and five months since the south Korean authorities received our first letter. However, they have not yet made a reply, avoiding without any sound reason our proposal for the convocation of a north-south joint conference.

They not only turn their back to dialogue of the authorities and politicians but also prevent in every way the south Korean people of all walks of life from talking about reunification and participating in dialogue for reunification.

On N-S Student Talks

Students of Seoul National University on Mar. 29 suggested that a grand country-crossing march and a north-south student sports meet be held for national reconciliation and, to this end, north-south student talks be convened at Panmunjom on June 10.

This proposal enjoyed praise and applause of the entire nation.

In support of the initiative of the students of Seoul National University, the Student Committee of Kim Il Sung University adopted a letter to the effect that it fully approves the proposal for holding working-level talks on June 10 and agrees to hold the talks at Panmunjom and discuss the agenda items as proposed by the side of Seoul National University. At that time, the president of Kim Il Sung University also wrote a letter calling on the president of Seoul National University to jointly value and foster the precious grassroots of students loving the country and the nation and to do his utmost to help them for their success. The chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, at the request of the Student Committee and the president of Kim Il Sung University, sent a telephone message on Apr. 2 to the president of the south Korean Red Cross, asking him to convey the two letters of our side to the addressees.

But, the president of the south Korean Red Cross refused to receive the letters on Apr. 4. Our students' letter, therefore, failed to reach south Korea.

Over 15,000 students from more than 70 universities and colleges throughout south Korea gathered at the playing ground of Korea University on May 14, held a meeting of all citizens and students resolving to realize north-south student talks on June 10 and co-hosting of the Olympic Games and adopted an open letter to the students in the north.

The proposal of the south Korean students was positively supported and approved by the students in the northern half of the Republic.

On May 17, the representatives of students of over 150 universities and colleges in the northern half of the Republic had a national joint meeting of students at the Kim Il Sung Stadium and adopted a letter to the south Korean students in support of their proposal to open north-south student talks.

On May 18, the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the DPRK, requested by the preparatory committee of the north side for north-south student talks, informed the south side that we would send two liaison officials to Panmunjom to convey the letter to the south Korean students to an organisation concerned in south Korea and asked it to take a relevant step.

The south Korean Red Cross side, however, avoided again conveying our letter though it keeps Red Cross liaison representatives stationed at Panmunjom. As a result, we could not but air the letter to the south Korean students on May 20.

Such behavior of the south Korean authorities is a rude act which unilaterally wrecks the usage of sending and receiving letters between the north and the south for 16 years and does not accord with the elementary etiquette and common sense.

On four occasions this year, the south Korean authorities did not reply our letters or convey letters to be conveyed.

The south Korean authorities, before suggesting the "talks between the high-level authorities of the north and the south" this time, should have repented of their past wrong doings and taken such a sincere stand as giving a reply to be sent to the other party to dialogue and receiving the letter they should take over.

In a telephone message dated June 2, also, our side clearly notified the south side that we would receive the letter of its prime minister on the principle of reciprocity. This notwithstanding, the south Korean authorities took no necessary step for this delivery and made it open unilaterally. Such faithless behaviour is impermissible.

The south Korean authorities, prompted by their wrong habit of cracking down upon the south Korean people, committed such a rude act as provoking the other party, far from discharging their responsibility and obligation.

If the south Korean authorities desire to be our partner in dialogue, they must observe an elementary etiquette and morality and take a correct attitude toward dialogue before talking about dialogue.

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would "make continued efforts in the future for the realization of north-south student talks."

The delegation left Panmunjom, saying it would continue to wait for fellow students from the south in Kaesong.

Meanwhile, south Korean students stormed a key government building on June 11 after police blocked their attempted march to Panmunjom.

Police said 26 students forced their way past guards at the huge Combined Central Government Complex in the center of Seoul.

"Punish the Roh Tae Woo government" and "Fight for unification," the students screamed, the AP reported from Seoul.

Student leaders vowed at a rally in Seoul on June 11 to organize another march to Panmunjom on Aug. 15. They said they would not stop their struggle for reunification.

On June 2, the Roh government declared that it would liberalize public debate on the reunification issue. But it emphasized that the government should remain the "sole channel" for dialogue with the north.

In the past, the south Korean rulers had quashed public discussion of reunification, imprisoning those who challenged them on the issue.

Opposition figures say that the reunification issue has been dominated by the government and often used to maintain the rule of military dictatorships.

"The government's decision to open up debate is a step forward. But, it still insists on a single channel. The decision came not voluntarily. It (the government) only bowed to public opinion," an observer said.

Though Roh on June 8 pledged to push north-south student exchange program, bowing to students' demand, many students have questioned his sincerity because of his desperate efforts to block the student march two days later.

A north-south student exchange was originated by Seoul National University students in late March. To push for the call, some 15,000 students from 70 universities across south Korea on May 14 gathered at Koryo (Korea) University and proposed a June 10 student meeting at Panmunjom. North Korean students agreed to the proposal and sent their delegates there on June 10. Seoul refused to even receive reply letters from north Korean students to their south Korean counterparts on two occasions.

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